

# ADDRESSES

DELIVERED AT THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

OF THE



OF

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE,

BY

PROF. JOHNSON ELIOT, A. M., M. D.,

HERBERT BOARDMAN, A. B., M. D.,

AND

R. D. DeL. FRENCH, M. D.

MARCH 6, 1872.

WASHINGTON, D. C.:

J. S. TOMLINSON, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER & STATIONER,

1126 SEVENTH ST.,

1872.



*8 list (J.)*

# ADDRESSES

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## Medical Department

OF

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE,

BY

PROF. JOHNSON ELIOT, A. M., M. D.,

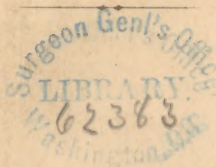
HERBERT BOARDMAN, A. B., M. D.,

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*Box 3.*

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PROF. JOHNSON, LL.D., A.M., M.D.,

HERBERT BOARDMAN, A.M., D.D.

R.D.D. FRENCH, M.D.

MARCH 8, 1872

WASHINGTON D.C.  
J. COLLIER, PRINTER, BOSTON, U.S.A.  
1872

## CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C. *March 7, 1872.*

DEAR SIR:

Our class, whom we have the honor to represent, solicits for publication your address delivered at the Twenty-Third Annual Commencement of the Medical Department of Georgetown College.

With sincere regard, your obedient servants,  
JOHN T. STRATTAN,  
D. H. HAZEN,  
CHAS. BITTINGER.

JOHNSON ELIOT, M. D.,  
*Professor of Surgery.*

*Committee.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 7, 1872.*

GENTLEMEN:

Your letter of this date, requesting a copy of the Address delivered by me, to the Graduating Class, is received.

I transmit, herewith, a copy, and thank you for the compliment.

Truly yours,

JOHNSON ELIOT.

JOHN T. STRATTAN,  
D. H. HAZEN,  
CHAS. BITTINGER,

*Committee, &c.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 7, 1872.*

DEAR SIR:

In behalf of our class-mates, we have been delegated to express to you their earnest appreciation of your Valedictory Address, delivered at the Twenty-Third Annual Commencement of Georgetown Medical College, and to respectfully request a copy of the same for publication.

With great respect, your obedient servants,

JOHN T. STRATTAN,  
D. H. HAZEN,  
CHAS. BITTINGER.

*Committee.*

HERBERT BOARDMAN, A. B., M. D.,  
*Valedictorian, Class of '72.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 7, 1872.*

GENTLEMEN:

As requested in your communication of this day's date, I transmit, herewith, the manuscript of my Address for publication, with the assurance that I highly appreciate the compliment thus conferred.

I remain, as ever, very cordially,

HERBERT BOARDMAN.

J. T. STRATTAN,  
D. H. HAZEN,  
CHAS. BITTINGER,

*Committee, &c.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 7, 1872.*

SIR:

In compliance with instructions from the "MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE ALUMNI," I have the honor to request, for publication, a copy of the Address delivered by you, at the Twenty-Third Annual Commencement of the Medical Department of Georgetown College.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ANDREW R. BROWN, M. D.,

*Corresponding Secretary.*

R. D. DEL. FRENCH, M. D.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 8, 1872.*

SIR:

Agreeably to your request, I transmit, herewith, a copy of the Address delivered by me, at the Annual Commencement of the Medical Department of Georgetown College, on the 6th instant.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

R. D. DEL. FRENCH.

ANDREW R. BROWN, M. D.,

*Corresponding Secretary,*

*Medical Society of the Alumni.*



ADDRESS  
OF  
JOHNSON ELIOT, A. M., M. D.,

*Professor of Surgery.*

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GENTLEMEN:

It is my fortunate privilege to address you this evening, and on behalf of the Medical Faculty of Georgetown College, welcome you as fellows in the honorable and charitable brotherhood of Physicians.

Permit me to congratulate you upon the termination of your college course, and a temporary relaxation from study and application.

Well do I know, with what mingled feelings this day has been anticipated by you. The result of patient study and reflection have finally culminated in your receiving the testimonials which have just been placed in your hands by the President of the College.

The apprehension of failure, which has depressed you, the hope of success which has stimulated you to persevere in your studies, are now dissipated; and to-day, with cheerful faces and thankful hearts, you receive from your *Alma Mater*, your reward of merit, and with it, her acknowledgement of the high confidence she reposes in you, as gentlemen and medical graduates. The Diploma, which you have just received, confers on you high and weighty responsibilities. It authorizes you to go forth, heal the sick and assuage suffering. The health and happiness of your fellow-beings are confided to your care.

Promise, never to let confidence thus reposed, be violated or abused, for woe betide the man, who, either through ignorance, indifference, indolence or design, fails conscientiously to discharge his full duty to suffering humanity. Your duties as medical men will be onerous, and at times fatiguing and exhausting, both to your mental powers and physical organization. Day and night, in sunshine and storm, you will have to respond to the calls of the public, and, without hesitation, generously give your time and labor to the demands made upon you; yes, often without recompense, or even an expression of gratitude from those to whom you have faithfully endeavored to render valuable services. This, gentlemen; is a cheerless picture to present you, as you are just entering upon your professional career; but it is, nevertheless, a true one. The experience of those who have preceded you, bear witness to its correctness; but let not this glance of the scene depress your ardor, but rather let it be a stimulus to aid you in overcoming obstacles in your path. The practitioner of medicine, even under the most auspicious circumstances, is slow to gain the confidence of the public. In the legal profession, a few successful cases will establish a reputation—will, as if by magic, elevate the individual to a firm and popular position in the estimation of the public—but not so with the physician—hundreds of successful cases with him will hardly extend his reputation beyond the immediate circle of the friends and relatives of the patient. You must not anticipate being thrown at once into a full and lucrative practice, but patiently await the tardy but ultimately certain approach of success. Your successful introduction into the practice of medicine depends greatly upon yourselves. Occasionally, however, a fortunate train of events may effect that, which under less auspicious circumstances, might require years. Wealth, social relations, engaging manners, have a weighty power in the scale; but,



gentlemen, believe me, when I declare, that all of these influences, will in time cease to be felt; a reputation thus gained will be only temporary, and will wither with the first unfortunate cases that may fall to such individual's lot. Close application to the study of your cases, industry and unretiring devotion to your profession, are the only certain paths to eminence and recognized reputation. In your intercourse with your patients, you must be candid and liberal, your deportment must be kind, patient and conciliatory, but ever free from affectation. Whilst you have accomplished much during your pupilage, and have indeed reflected credit upon the Faculty under whose charge you have been; yet for you there remains much to be done. The facts which you have so carefully stored away during your college sessions, have now to be digested and arranged, so as to render them available for future use and application. You are now to test with your own observation, both the principles and theories in medicine which have been taught you by your preceptors. You will now enjoy full scope to contrast the result of your own experience with the experience of the past. In availing yourselves of this privilege, however, you must be ever on the alert not to get adrift on the wide sea of medical theories. In every science there are certain recognized dogmas and principles, (more particularly so, I think, in medicine) which the observation and experience of centuries have confirmed as truths. These truths and principles must ever remain as stationary beacons for your guidance, and in all of your speculations and theorizing, they are never to be lost to your view. They must be, indeed, to you, what the polar star is to the navigator. The science of medicine is progressive in its character, its perfection have been slowly developed. Sometimes, the result of chance or accident, oftener through induction. Every period of time has added

something to its growth as it has rolled on its course. Through the dark ages it was blended with the supernatural. Magic and astrology gave their influences in obscuring its truth. Thus, centuries elapsed before the healing art escaped from the bondage of ignorance and empiricism, by which it was encompassed; but emerging slowly from this condition, now it presents itself to us in symmetry and usefulness, claiming its full position as a science, and a great blessing to man.

Medicine of the nineteenth century affords to the investigator one of the widest fields for study and observation. Never, since it has been accepted as a means of relieving suffering, have so many conscientious and wise men devoted themselves in developing its resources as at the present time. The Anatomist, the Pathologist, and the chemist have emulated each other in laying upon its altar their most valued contributions. Rich, indeed, have been the offerings made by them. The Anatomist with his scalpel, aided by the microscope, has revealed to our senses, the most delicate structures of organization in a normal condition. The Pathologist, through the same agency, has pointed out to us minute alterations in diseased tissues, their gradual transformation from a normal to an abnormal condition, thus pointing out to us, the early invasion of disease, and warning us of approaching decay. The Chemist, from the quiet of his laboratory, daily adds something to our store of knowledge, either through the discovery of new remedies, or the more acceptable application of those already known to us. His investigations in organic chemistry are not less brilliant. He has developed more clearly the laws of Hygeine, and has given us many valuable facts relating to the processes of digestion, nutrition, and secretion. We enjoy other advantages over our predecessors, in the invention and introduction of new and ingenious instru-

ments for aiding us in forming more correct diagnosis. Now, with all the means at our disposal arising from the invention of new appliances, the daily introduction of new remedies in the *Materia Medica*, neglect or failure on our part, to embrace the advantages thus offered to us would place one in an unenviable, if not, in a criminal position among his fellows. In your intercourse with your professional brethren, exercise the greatest courtesy and forbearance. A physician is daily misrepresented, both in language and action; and, if silly enough to take heed of remarks made concerning him, he will be in constant turmoil, and his time, instead of being passed pleasantly and usefully, will be consumed in endless wrangling and dispute. Pursue your calling industriously and conscientiously without regard to the poverty or affluence of your patient; always remembering that life and health are as dear to the humble and lowly as to the more elevated and distinguished. Apart from your professional obligations, you have a large influence among your fellow-associates, both socially and morally; your example, for either good or evil, may be faithfully followed. As medical men, you are not only expected to restore the sick to health, but you are to be the conservators of it. Your advice and opinion in sanitary matters will be often solicited. It is your province to decide the causes which are detrimental to health, before the authorities can abate them.

Thus, gentlemen, by virtue of your profession, you are, indeed, to a certain extent, the sanitarians of the public; and I fancy that this office of the physician has been fully realized, and should be so acknowledged in this city. For while our sister cities have been fearfully visited by one the most frightful and disgusting maladies (small-pox) to which man is liable, we have enjoyed almost an immunity from its ravages. This fortunate escape from



the pestilence has been mainly owing, in my opinion, to the timely and efficient protection that has been given to all classes by vaccination.

Gentlemen, the respect and consideration which have been extended to us during the whole period of our association, have deeply impressed us, and we part from you with the same feeling of interest and regard as we do from dear old friends. Locate wherever you may, you carry with you our warmest and kindest wishes for your future happiness and success. .

#### ALUMNI OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

##### OF GEORGETOWN COLLEGE:

Permit me to thank you for your presence here to day, and in the name of the Faculty, extend to you their kindest greeting. Nearly a quarter of a century has elapsed since the Medical Department was first opened. Over the opposition and vicissitudes which attend all new undertakings, it has triumphed; and from a class of five matriculates, it has expanded to over a hundred, and has years ago assumed its position among the institutions of the country.

To you, gentlemen, we feel deeply indebted for the present flourishing condition of the Department, and we take a special pleasure in thus publicly acknowledging our obligations to you.

We are, not only happily represented by you, in every section of our country, but have distinguished representatives in the most distant limits of the globe. Your personal influence, your kind consideration in our behalf will be ever remembered and deeply appreciated. Rest assured, gentlemen, that the pleasant relations which existed between us during your college days are vividly engraved on our minds. Time has not in the slightest degree lessened our interest in your welfare, and we trust ever to retain you as our personal and professional friends.

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Having defined some of the duties which the physician owes to society, and for the faithful performances of which he is held strictly responsible, it may not be inappropriate to ask your attention while I briefly and respectfully remind you, that there are certain privileges and courtesies which he in return has a right to claim from you. There is possibly no profession or vocation where solid worth and learning are so little appreciated and valued as in that of medicine. The ablest, the most scientific and meritorious men are often ungenerously permitted to remain in obscurity and indigence, while the more indifferent and superficially educated are courted, patronized, and enriched.

In choosing your medical adviser, you should be governed in your selection by the standing the individual holds in the estimation of his medical brethren, rather than by his personal popularity or his political affinities. The relations of the patient with his physician should be of the most friendly and confiding character, and every facility should be afforded him in the prosecution of his duties. He should know that his suggestions and directions are rigidly enforced. He should be made sensible, that the utmost confidence is reposed in his skill, both, by the patient and his friends. There is a subject which I particularly desire to impress on your attention in relation to the medical man, and point out to you the injustice which you often do him. It is this: you compel the physician to a too hasty opinion in cases which require the deepest reflection and consideration.

You often force him to arrive at conclusions without the proper premises. He must be infallible; and, as if through inspiration, give you his opinion of a case at a single examination of the patient, which should be only given after reflection and investigation. A physician is

summoned hurriedly to visit a sufferer. The friends of the invalid are anxious and alarmed. The physician is urged to immediate action, and he is, without careful consideration, compelled to prescribe. If he hesitates a moment; yes, if he even appears serious and reflective, (for his countenance is closely watched) his skill is questioned by the friends of the sick man, who unhesitatingly pronounce him unskillful in his profession. How often would the physician dearly prize a few moments for reflection, and quiet to enable him to correctly diagnose the case, and sketch out a safe course of treatment. But this boon is denied him. Consultations in all aggravated cases of illness should be held. The meeting of physicians is always pleasant, and consultations are earnestly invited by them. Certainly there exists no valid reason why they should not be encouraged, both by patients and their friends. Much good often results from a medical consultation over a sick man, even if the opinion and course of treatment pursued by the attending physician is entirely sustained by the consulting one. It is argued by many, that consultations are unnecessary, and assign as a reason, that a change of treatment is seldom made; that physicians are too courteous to each other to make any alteration in the conduct of a case, for the fear of casting a reflection on a brother practitioner. This, I assure you, is not the case: there is but one sentiment which inspires the honest physician, and that is to relieve his suffering patient, regardless of all else. I speak to you from experience, when I declare to you, that an interchange of views afforded by a consultation, is always agreeable to the physician in attendance. The consultation divides the responsibility, and adds firmness and energy in treatment. I would ask, if any of you would trust a doubtful case at law, where thousands of dollars are involved, to one legal gentleman? It matters not, how eminent his qualifications might be, your



answer would be certainly in the negative. Then, I will ask of you, if you value your health less than your wealth? Remember, that in medicine, as in all important transactions of life, there is safety, as well as wisdom in a multitude of counsel. It is, never, the proposition for a consultation that is objectionable, but it is the manner in which it is made.

The suggestion for a consultation comes often abruptly, and carries with it, a question of skill on the part of the attendant. The greatest delicacy should be practiced in this matter, more particularly with young and over sensitive practitioners. In concluding my remarks, allow me a word in commendation of the graduates of 1872. From an intimate association with them, for several years, I am fully prepared to introduce them as gentlemen of high merit and education. They have faithfully passed through an unusually rigid curriculum, and have impartially gained the honors which have this day been conferred on them. As a Faculty, we experience much pride in the manner with which they have acquitted themselves while under our instruction; and, we look confidently forward to the time when they will rank among the many distinguished and eminent sons of the old renowned *Alma Mater*.



ADDRESS  
OF  
HERBERT BOARDMAN, A. B., M. D.,

*Valedictorian, Class of 1872.*

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The age is in need of physicians. By physicians, I mean not those who, following the empirical practice of the dark ages, prescribe in accordance with formulae written before the adoption of modern views and new remedies: formulae designed for diseases whose history, like that of many nations, is written, but whose types have been replaced by diseases of an entirely new character previously unheard of and unknown. Not those who have a superficial knowledge of diseases, knowing little or nothing of their causes, pathology, or anatomical characteristics; ignorant alike of what is necessary to restore diseased structure to its normal condition or how to preserve it from decay and destruction, but the age needs *progressive* physicians.

A sentiment of a good old latin author declares "That a poet is born, not made;" so the age needs physicians *born* to their calling, and wholly devoted to it, who have chosen the profession on account of their adaptability and fitness for it. But more: there are needed beside this peculiar adaptability, men of education; men, who can combine with their fitness, ability and reasoning powers by the use of which they can apply, with understanding, every improvement suggested in medicine: men, who having a thorough



and minute knowledge of the fundamental principles underlying the superstructure of medicine proper, can appreciate all that is connected with the structure of the system not only in disease but in health as well. There are needed men who, knowing that medicine assists nature, and does not cure disease, will be content in applying the smallest quantity of remedial agents to accomplish the desired result.

The necessities of the age demand physicians who can draw from the bare facts presented in disease and its concomitants, deduction after deduction, until, arriving at new conclusions, they establish that which is doubted or overthrow that which is worthless or pernicious.

There are two great classes of physicians alike needing the accession of young men, thoroughly in love with their profession, to their ranks.

The one, by necessity the larger portion of that army of seventy thousand practicing physicians of this country, known as General Practitioners, who apply truths already deduced and of known reliability, whose advantages are few and whose situation and wide-spread practice exclude them from minute and accurate research. The other known as Specialists, who, occupying their minds with a few of the many newly occurring phenomena, evolve new facts and truths which seem almost the gifts of Providence and the greatest of blessings to mankind. They are, and ever will be, the vanguard of their profession. Their origin dates back as far as the history of medicine itself. Indeed, we read in Herodotus (who flourished many centuries before the birth of Christ.) "Here each physician applies himself to one disease only, and not more. All places abound in physicians, some for the eyes, others for the head, others for the teeth, and others for internal diseases."

They have, in the past, suffered banishment and martyrdom for the assistance they have rendered the cause of science; poverty for their principles; and the jibes and sneers of the most learned of their contemporaries for the honest support of newly established facts. They have made their names immortal, and we are to-day reaping the benefits of their ill-requited study and investigations.

In stating that there is need of progressive physicians, I would not detract one atom from the ability and zeal of those eminent and brilliant minds in the profession who have contributed so much to the advancement of medical science during the last half century, and who are elaborating the great truths of the science at the present time. No class of men can claim more energetic or more studious workers among their ranks; no profession can boast of more gifted minds or more brilliant talents.

Through the deep researches of a Darwin and a Huxley, startling as their assertions have been, believing or not believing, we have been taught, more minutely, comparative anatomy, the antiquity of man and the wonderful manner in which the works of a Divine Master are performed.

By the aid of the investigations of the microscopist and the chemist, the means of bringing certain criminals to justice, the changes of the body in health, the action of medicines, the causes of disease, and the modes of promoting the health of cities, have been determined with wonderful accuracy.

The Stethoscope, conveying every sound of the diseased or healthy lung to our ear, and the Laryngoscope, reflecting to our sight the appearance of the throat almost into the lungs themselves, have made a revolution in the treatment of diseases of the throat and lungs, within the last half century, unprecedented in the history of medicine.

The recent application of the thermometer, in determining the rate and amount of destruction in the tissues, and

of the sphygmograph, which writes unerringly the character of the pulse-beat, tell us as plainly as did the handwriting on the wall at Belshazzar's feast, of what "to beware" in the course of a disease.

Do we ever seriously reflect upon the grand results of vaccination, that arrester of the great scourge of countries and nations, the advent of which was more dreaded and fatal than the approach of an invading host? The immortal Jenner worked over thirty years, through poverty and want, in ridicule and disgrace, to solve the problem which was to be a blessing to the world, the important results of whose experience can be applied in as short a time as I have been speaking of it.

It required the mind of a Newton to discover the *principia naturae*, and a Copernicus to replace the complicated Ptolemean by the true theory of the solar system; but any child of twelve can comprehend and learn them now that they are discovered.

But as in the dying words of La Place, "The known is little, and the unknown is immense," a host of truths remain to be discovered and established which can be accomplished only by patient toil and unremitting study: for example, to determine the essential nature of fever, the causes of what are called spontaneous diseases, and the successful treatment of diseases for which there is at the present day no known remedy; in materia medica to arrive at a knowledge of the precise action of medicines; in physiology, to determine the nature and exact function of organs still unexplained; and so on through every branch of medicine there are a multitude of problems which, when once wrought out and understood, will prove of immense benefit to mankind.

We come then before you to-day, ladies and gentlemen, to beg that our names may be added to the list of those who wish to serve their fellow-men. We have pondered



long and well the great responsibility which we undertake, and our fitness for the work before us. We have doubted and feared by turns, and we now launch forth to seek a new life-work, trusting that our feeble efforts may do something toward the solution of those problems which concern the amelioration of the sufferings of our fellowmen. Looking forward to that end, we ask your support and sympathy. For your presence here to-day, we extend to you all a most cordial greeting.

To those friends who have watched us with care during the long course of our studies, and who have kindly consented to be present at this our marriage to the profession of our choice, we owe our heartfelt thanks.

To the ladies, particularly, whose bright smiles and cheering words of encouragement, have assisted us so much in our studies in the past, and who have this day wreathed our honors with garlands of flowers, emblematical of their own purity and devotion of character, we owe our deepest obligations for their heartfelt interest in this the great era of our lives.

Indeed, in all the ever-varying phases of life, woman is the great rock of our dependence; she watches with a tender care and anxiety our childhood's hours; shares our youthful fancies; counsels, advises, and sympathizes with us in our trials in manhood; nurses and supports our tottering steps down to the grave and mourns our loss after we are gone.

WORTHY AND RESPECTED PRESIDENT OF OUR COLLEGE:

We congratulate ourselves upon receiving from you our long and earnestly desired degree of Doctor of Medicine. We trust that our future may be such that you will never regret having conferred it upon us. It will ever be our aim so to live as justly to merit the high honor which we have just received at your hands.

## GENTLEMEN OF THE FACULTY:

During our course we have endeavoured to work for our mutual interest and that of our *Alma Mater*. If our rebellious spirit has lead us into error, rest assured it has been an error of the head and not of the heart. Your kindness of manner and the freedom with which you have allowed us to address you, have endeared you to the hearts of every member of the class of eighteen hundred and seventy-two, in a friendship that will die only when the spark of life leaves the body. We thank you for your continued kindness to us, and trust you may be spared to instruct and lead into the paths of medicine many young men more worthy and deserving of your kindness and attention than we have been.

## GENTLEMEN OF THE JUNIOR CLASS:

The mantle of responsibility for the future of our *Alma Mater* this day falls upon you. She will be to you and to us what you make her. If you work for and honor her, she will honor you. If you are derelict in your duty toward her, she cannot, even by her already gained reputation, elevate you.

We are confident that the trust reposed in you will not be betrayed. The ever ready manner with which you have assisted us in furthering the advancement of our College, is, to us, a sufficient guarantee that you will guard its name and fame as you would your own. For your attention to our friends, and for the services you have this day rendered us, we shall ever be grateful. May we express the hope that when another year rolls around you may be honored with the same courtesy and good will that you have this day shown us.

## FELLOW CLASSMATES:

In the mountains of Switzerland there is a narrow pass over a deep and yawning abyss so dangerous and terrifying,

that when the guides, who have become familiar with it would conduct a traveller across, they blindfold him lest he should lose his self-control and stagger at the sight. So will it be with us; when we shall have gained the skill necessary to enable us to lead over the giddy heights and depths of serious disease, we may be obliged to blindfold the mental eyes of suffering humanity, lest, knowing the peril through which he is passing, the fainting patient, stricken with fear, loses his frail footing and falls into the last awful depth. In striving to combat disease we should be mindful that it is not our aim to search for more efficient drugs. We should be more ready to give advice than medicine, leaving reliance upon the latter to those who have neither the wisdom nor moral courage to profit by the former.

The majority of you, during your course of evening lectures and morning studies, have had laborious official duties to discharge during the day. All honor to our *Alma Mater* who gives the privilege; and all honor to that government and her officers in charge, who, recognizing worthy ambition in young men, offer them the opportunity to leave the counting desk, the workshop, the fields of sweetly smelling clover, the waving grain, and the gathering of the harvest home, and grant them not only the opportunity but the means to endow their minds with learning, and train themselves to lives of future usefulness.

Being the architects of our own fortunes, let us rely upon our own strength of body and soul; take for our motto self-reliance, faith, honesty and industry; inscribe upon our banner, "Luck is a fool, pluck is a hero;" considering energy and invincible determination, with a right motive, the powers that move the world; and that with these success is certain. Allow me, in closing, to express to you my warmest thanks for the high honor you have this day conferred upon me, the proudest day of my life;

and rest assured I shall always remember it with feelings of joy and sorrow—joy at having attained the doctorate, and sorrow at parting with such a noble class—this day, the day we bid our *Alma Mater*, FAREWELL.



ADDRESS  
OF  
DR. R. D. DEL. FRENCH,

*Orator Medical Society of the Alumni.*

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MR. PRESIDENT AND PROFESSORS:

The Medical Society of the Alumni of Georgetown College sends greeting to you, whom its members look back to with so many filial sentiments and kind regards; and, as their honored representative, I stand before you a connecting link between our *Alma Mater* and the youngest members of her family, who have to-day received the credentials which entitle them to take honorable rank in a truly noble and beneficent profession.

We have watched your labors with great interest and pleasure, rejoicing in your success, and jealously guarding your ancient renown; ever keeping before us the fact, that we are members of one family, and that your welfare and interests are not altogether separate from our own; hence we glory in the increasing success that year after year has crowned your labors.

The good seed you have sown has not always fallen on barren ground, for to-day the graduates of this college may be found industriously and successfully following their high calling in every state of our own, and in almost every foreign country, reflecting credit on the institution that gave them professional birth. To them you have confided, as a sacred legacy, the knowledge which has made them benefactors of mankind.

You have not only taught them how to recognize and grapple with disease in all its various and multiplied forms, but, also impressed upon their minds the important responsibilities and duties that devolve upon them in their several relations to society, morally and professionally. The liberal advances you have made in establishing chairs, and appointing professors for the more perfect education of students in the special branches of Medicine and Surgery, outside of the heretofore regular Curriculum, reflects high credit upon yourselves, and will be of incalculable benefit to those who may have the good fortune to sit beneath your teaching hereafter. In behalf of those members of your faculty, who have been appointed from our society to positions of trust, we extend to you such sentiments as are befitting the occasion, for we are proud of their preferment, feeling assured, that their merits and peculiar qualifications for the responsible positions they fill, will redound to the interests of the College, and the advancement of scientific knowledge.

During the past year, through your industry and liberality, a Dispensary has been opened under the auspices of Georgetown College, for the purpose of furnishing medicine and medical treatment to those who are so circumstanced as to be unable to pay for these absolute necessities in the restoration of health and preservation of life, thereby relieving and ameliorating much distress and suffering that would not have been reached by any other means. Many a worthy family, ground down by the remorseless heel of poverty, has been made glad by the kind attention of the efficient and intelligent staff of young physicians to whom you have judiciously committed this important trust.

The past history of the Institution whose deservedly good name you have so ably maintained through many trying vicissitudes, is replete with interest to all of us, but more especially to you who despised not the day of small things,

but with strong faith in the greatness of your enterprize, labored patiently and perseveringly for a higher and nobler reward than immediate gratification, and its present stature and beautiful proportions is proof that you built on a sure foundation, and established yourselves in the hearts of an intelligent and appreciative community. While we congratulate you on this, as not the least of the many auspicious occasions over which you have presided, we heartily wish that your future may be crowned with even more abundant success, and the present may be but the prelude to a brilliant hereafter, whose accumulate glory shall endure while it gathers fresh laurels through all succeeding years.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS:

After listening to the brilliant word-painting that has pictured the mind of this living landscape with glowing imagery, portraying, in completeness and beauty of design and execution, all the emotions and experiences of life, it is, with no affected diffidence, that I undertake to address you, feeling that little remains for me to say, save to extend to you, in behalf of those who have passed on before you, a few words of fraternal salutation, and to wish you signal success in the onerous and responsible profession, a thorough knowledge of which you have had such ample opportunities of acquiring in a school which stands pre-eminent for the comprehensiveness of its system of education, and the rigor of its examinations.

The severe application which has brought your studies to a triumphant issue, has been compensated for and rewarded by this public recognition which is only awarded to successful students.

To-day you have been commissioned by your *Alma Mater*, by whom you have been tried and found proficient, to go forth and fight valiantly against the common foes of humanity—disease and death, which you will frequent-

ly find less obstinate under remedial agents, than the strong prejudices of the ignorant to the teachings of wholesome philosophy.

Ignorance and superstition will be your most uncompromising opponents in the great work which has been assigned to you, and in many instances non appreciation and inadequate returns your only reward for hazardous services and arduous labor.

Nevertheless, with hearts illuminated with the sunshine of truth, and minds richly stored with knowledge, you will be superior to all obstacles; therefore, press forward with tireless energy and unflagging zeal; for, if you would conquer the attractive heights of fame which glitter in the sunbeams of your dawning careers, you will have to climb the rugged hills of experience, and walk through the shadowy valleys of disappointment that intervene.

The statesman may rise to eminence on the golden opinions of his countrymen, won in an hour by the successful execution of a national or political idea, and the warrior may win renown on a single glorious field; but he who would become immortal in science must picture for himself no downy couch, hours of ease or rosy pleasures.

Patient, unremitting toil, combined with undying tenacity of purpose are his helm and compass—fame his guiding star.

The bright names, the illustrious pioneers of the past, which have been enshrined in the hearts of posterity, are those who have reached further into the hidden mysteries and explained the phenomena of nature more clearly than their fellows; and those who follow, must write their names in new and imperishable characters, work out for themselves a crown of jewels from the virgin mines of yet unfathomed mystery. You have the charts of past explorations before you, and great examples to cheer you as step by step you move toward the goal of your ambition.



Having been educated in the science and art of medicine, you are henceforth priests to the sanctuary of the soul. We congratulate you, and welcome you into the ranks of a profession whose patent of nobility is of higher antiquity than that of any earthly potentate, and whose roll of honor is too long to be scanned by any eye less omniscient than that of the Eternal, whose self-denying devotees are found alleviating pain and sorrow, staying the death bolt, alike in the homes of the opulent and the dwellings of the poor, risking their own lives for the benefit of their fellow-men wherever the trail of the serpent has left its poison amongst men.

The profession of your adoption requires great diversity of talents, versatility of genius and decision of character, acuteness of perception and promptness in action are distinguishing features of the successful physician; for on the precision of his judgment in a great measure depends the lives of those who may be entrusted to his care.

The application of remedies to diseased conditions has increased with each succeeding year, until there is scarcely a tree, flower or mineral that is not successfully employed in removing pain, and checking the ravages of disease.

This is an age of progress, discovery and invention, an era of steam, electricity and restless activity, cities spring up like gourds in the wilderness, and wealth is accumulated with lightning rapidity.

The love of luxurious ease and inordinate excesses that led to the downfall of empires in other ages by undermining the physical and moral energies of men, may be found in our own, producing the same evil results.

The tendency of men to crowd together in utter disregard of hygienic rules, swells up the mortality list to alarming proportions. The subject of hygiene will necessarily engage much of your attention; for in the practice of your profession, the wants of society in this particular

will be constantly forced upon your observation. Imperfect drainage, lack of ventilation, crowded tenements with their attendant legions of evils, will meet you at every step.

The work commenced by the immortal Howard, has engaged the minds of men of science and art ever since his day; and, although, vast improvements have been made, much remains yet to be accomplished.

Ever bear in mind, that morbid agencies must find a resting place in order to reproduce themselves, and that neglect of sanitary measures in the dwellings of men is one of the chief causes of disease.

Disease being a morbid change in previously healthy tissues or organs brought about by internal or external conditions which are subject to organic laws. It is highly important that the student of medicine should possess an accurate knowledge of healthy or normal conditions, and a thorough acquaintance with the phenomena of life. Hence anatomy and physiology, linked together by the laws of nature, form the basis of all modern medical instruction.

The time was, when the hand of science was shackled, and the high aspirations of intelligent inquiry curbed by tyrannical laws that had their origin in the chimerical awe, that distorted the minds of men with regard to all things pertaining to the dead, and that settled like an impenetrable cloud upon the voiceless precincts of the tomb.

But, little by little, as light broke through the gloom, the phenomena of nature assumed less of the mysterious, until the world, enlightened by an advanced civilization, has learned to regard the Dissecting Room as the *sanctum sanctorum* of medical education, and the practical study of anatomy as the ground-work of all medical knowledge.

We live in the brightest and best of all ages; an age in which all that is apocryphal, is submitted to the cruci-

ble of reason and analytical test. Freedom of thought and action is the grand characteristic of our time; and Hygieia, no longer fettered by untoward influences, rises from the subsiding waters that so long submerged the beauties of a world, to which she was destined to dispense health and happiness.

The studies through which you have passed have inculcated broad cosmopolitan views, incompatible with the narrow mindedness or prejudice of the past, that in its opposition to Specialism, or a subdivision of labor, according to the adaptation of the individual, has so long retarded the progress of medical knowledge; and as the field of Medicine and Surgery has become coextensive with all others combined, you will recognize the impossibility of one mind embracing it in its fulness and doing justice to all its parts. The more perfectly we become educated the greater becomes the necessity for this subdivision.

The question as to whether Specialists should be recognized in this country as "Regular Practitioners," cannot be much longer a debatable point: that they will be, is beyond a doubt.

Year after year has been bringing us near to this desirable ultimatum. There is ample room in the profession for the Oculist, Aurist, Dentist, &c., and the sooner they are recognized as inside the pale of "regular practice," the better it will be for the laity and ourselves.

Being now regularly admitted into the profession, you will find little time for recreation or pleasure: yours is a calling that tolerates no trifling with foreign pursuits; it will demand your whole time and attention.

The necessity for constant study increases with years, and the richer you are in experience, the more extensive will be your reading, if you would not be distanced in the race for professional preeminence.

Unlike the lawyer, who has time to study his case, you

must be prepared to act at a moment's notice, having your armor always on and your weapons ready for immediate attack.

Our tenure of life is at best, very uncertain. The aged become weary under the burden of years that press upon them with mountain weight, and retire calmly to rest. Man, in the pride of his strength, passes away, eclipsed like the sun in his meridian glory, and disease hangs over the head of buoyant youth, destroying the sweet harmonies of life. To-day, the smile of health sits on his brow, and his heart is joyous as a smiling billow; to-morrow, the light has fled from his eyes, and those that loved him, weep beside his grave.

The relationship existing between the physician and patient is necessarily of a very intimate and delicate nature; the most sacred truths are confided to his keeping; these he should guard with his sacred honor, overshadowing the weakness of frail humanity with the seamless vesture of peerless charity.

Being upheld under all circumstances by a strong reliance in Him who has promised never to forsake you; and cheered in your darkest hours by happy recollections of grateful expressions from those whom you have benefited, which will swell as years roll on, from a rivulet to a mighty river, flowing around your hearts with the music of perpetual youth.

"The quality of mercy is not strained;  
It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven.  
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blessed;  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:  
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes  
The throne'd monarch better than his crown:

\* \* \* \* \*

It is an attribute of God himself."



## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

On this, as on many similar occasions in years that have gone by and left their tide marks upon the pages of our lives, we are indebted to you for the kind countenance and generous appreciation manifested by your presence, and the fragrant offerings which in their profusion and beauty, seem to have been culled from the gardens of paradise by angel fingers, to brighten the paths that diverge from this, the grand starting point in the lives of those you have heretofore inspired by sweet words of encouragement during their period of probation.

Some of you have looked forward to this day of fruition with bright expectancy in the success of your sons or brothers; and some lovely faces are radiant with light uprising from hearts brim full of joy, that takes a richer, prouder, more triumphant hue from glances that fling back the magic charm of love.

We now commit them to your care, feeling assured from the happy augury of the present, that the darkest clouds that can overshadow their paths in the journey of life, will be scattered by sympathies that angels might envy; and, thank you for the great interest you have always evinced in our proceedings, trusting, that in each coming year, we may be sustained by continued proofs of your favor.

## GRADUATES---CLASS OF 1872.

BOARDMAN, HERBERT, A. B.,	Trumansburgh, N. Y.
<small>Tests for Arsenic in acute poisoning.</small>	
BOGUE, A. P.	Grand Rapids, Mich.
<small>Vaccinia.</small>	
CLARK, EUGENE B.	Tiffin, O.
<small>The Great Sympathetic.</small>	
COUNBE, J. T.	Washington, D. C.
<small>Pneumonitis.</small>	
COWLING, WM. W.	Columbus, O.
<small>Variola.</small>	
CLEVERDON, J. S.	Ohio.
<small>Remittent Fever.</small>	
DONOHUE, FLORENCE	Trumansburgh, N. Y.
<small>The Circulation.</small>	
GATELY, M. J.	Roscommon, Ireland.
<small>Cholera Infantum.</small>	
HICKMAN, G. W. VINTON	Baltimore, Md.
<small>Variola.</small>	
JONES, E. S.	Washington, D. C.
<small>Continued Fever.</small>	
KEABLES, THOMAS A.	Mystic Bridge, Ct.
<small>Prophylaxis</small>	
LEACH, HAMILTON E.	Washington, D. C.
<small>Cholera Infantum.</small>	
MAUSS, RICHARD G.	Covington, Ky.
<small>Vital Force.</small>	
MILLER, CHARLES H.	Quincy, Mass.
<small>The Function of Nutrition.</small>	
McKAY, A. FRANK	Washington, D. C.
<small>The effects of Alcohol on the Function of Nutrition.</small>	
McCAULEY, JOSEPH A.	Washington, D. C.
<small>Rubeola.</small>	
O'LEARY, CHARLES W.	Frederick, Md.
<small>Miasm.</small>	
PORTER, HENRY R.	Utica, N. Y.
<small>Medical Diagnosis.</small>	
SWEETMAN, JAMES T.	Philadelphia, N. Y.
<small>Tubercle.</small>	
YOUNG, PARKE G.	Washington, D. C.

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY.

WELLS, GEORGE W.	Havre de Grace, Md.
<small>Cinchona Barks and their Alkaloids.</small>	

### THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR IN PHARMACY

Was Conferred on

FLODOARDO HOWARD, M. D.  
JOHNSON ELIOT, M. D.  
DANIEL P. HICKLING.

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BOYCE, WALTER J.	-	-	Washington, D. C.
CARROLL, PHILIP	-	-	Savannah, Ga.
CHRISTIAN, GEO. A.	-	-	Cleveland, Ohio.
CRANCH, EDWARD	-	-	Washington, D. C.
DOWNING, THOS. R.	-	-	Washington, D. C.
DEMPHY, JOHN F.	-	-	Newburgh, N. Y.
EATON, J. S. J.	-	-	Elkhorn, Wis.
ELIOT, L. J.	-	-	Washington, D. C.
FRANZ, C. F. L.	-	-	Philadelphia, Pa.
FRENCH, W. H.	-	-	Laconia, N. H.
GENTSCH, CHARLES	-	-	Washington, D. C.
HAZEN, D. H.	-	-	Belvidere, N. J.
HELLER, P. H.	-	-	Washington, D. C.
JACOBSON, C.	-	-	Denmark.
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OFFUTT, GEO. W.	-	-	Georgetown, D. C.
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SCHLEIMER, D.	-	-	-	-	Washington, D. C.
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STOKES, GEO. W.	-	-	-	-	Marlton, N. J.
STERNE, WM. H.	-	-	-	-	Pittsburgh, Pa.
THOMPSON, J. H.	-	-	-	-	Washington, D. C.
VEERHOFF, WILHELM H.	-	-	-	-	Germany.
WALLACE, M. T.	-	-	-	-	Brooklyn, N. J.
WHITE, WILLIAM	-	-	-	-	Pennsylvania.
WESTCOTT, J. B.	-	-	-	-	New York.



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ERRATA:

Page 7, 6th line; the word "unretiring" should read *untiring*.

Page 29, 22d line; the word "near" should read *nearer*.

Page 30, 16th line; the word "truths" should read *trusts*.



